(b) whether it is a fact that National Thermal Power Corporation intends to regulate supply according to the Letter of Credit (LC) limit; if so, what is the prescribed limit and whether it is being honoured by DESU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) NTPC's outstanding dues against supplies of power to Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) are Rs. 280.50 crores (equivalent of 5.9 months billing) as on end-November, 1994 excluding surcharge of Rs. 74.63 crores for late payments. Further, against the requirement of opening a Letter of Credit (LC) for Rs. 53 crores to cover NTPC's average monthly supply, based on the billing in the last quarter, DESU has established LC for Rs. 36 crores. According to a decision taken by the Government recently, DESU is required to enhance the LC to 105% of average monthly billing, which DESU has not complied with, so far. In view of these considerations, notices were issued to DESU in July, 1994 and again in August, 1994 for regulation of power supply, but power supply was not regulated by NTPC at that time in view of an assurance given by DESU in September, 1994 for enhancing the LC for making efforts to make balance payments towards current dues and for working out an action plan for liquidation of arrears.

Again, keeping in view DESUs commitment to pay Rs. 40 crores during December, 1994 and to enhance the LC to Rs. 40 crores w.e.f. 1st January, 1995, NTPC has continued supply of power to DESU.

Repayment on Foreign Owned Power Projects

2137. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a review with regard to country's foreign owned payment-guaranteed power projects likely to come up in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Orissa in regard to payment obligations for the power purchased by them;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a record of disposing of 50 per cent or more of their present power generation with huge losses in transmission and distribution in agriculture-irrigation sector and in domestic consumption;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all those six States will be going in for costlier power by foreign projects and will have to spend heavily on equipment like capacitors, power transformers and transmission lines; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take or advice the States concerned for plugging the loopholes in order to run private power projects on commercial lines so that payment obligations for power purchased by the States is met without incurring any losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The progress of all the private power proposals is reviewed by the Ministry of Power from time to time.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The cost-estimates of all the power projects (exceeding Rs. 100 crores) coming up in both the private and public sector have to be examined and approved by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). It is observed that the cost of new private power projects cleared by the CEA recently is comparable with the similar projects coming up in the similar period in the public sector.

Import of Coal by Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board

2138. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tamil Nadu Government has decided to import coal for Tamil Nadu Electricity Board from Australia worth Rs. 200 crores;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions in this deal;

(c) what will be the quantum of foreign exchange involved;

(d) the total period for which the coal will be imported;

(e) whether Government have received any Memorandum/Communication in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (f) Tamil Nadu Electricity Board have intimated that they have decided to import coal in order to make up for the anticipated shortfall in coal supplies and to maintain coal stock equivalent to 21 days' consumption. A quantity of 15 lakh tonnes of coal is proposed to be imported during the period January to June, 1995. Import of coal is on Open General Licence and it is within the competence of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board/Government of Tamil Nadu. No information has been received from them on the contractual details of the import.